



Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology
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Clinician Public Health Advisory

Update 1 - Emergency Department Surveillance and Response Alert

In light of the current events in the Mid-East, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is issuing an official Public Health Advisory Notification. The DHEC Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology is requesting enhanced surveillance from all hospitals in South Carolina. Patients who present to area hospitals with **any** of the following clinical presentations should be reported **immediately** to the local public health department contact as identified in this communication.

Timeframe

Effective until further notified.

Clinical and Epidemiological Indicators

1. Any rare or unusual disease presentation,
2. Any clustering or unusual age distribution in a common disease presentation,
3. Any sudden signification increase in the following non-specific syndromes:
 - a. Respiratory illness with fever,
 - b. Gastrointestinal illness,
 - c. Encephalitis or meningitis,
 - d. Neuromuscular illness,
 - e. Fever with rash,
 - f. Bleeding disorders.
4. An unusual pattern of respiratory or influenza-like illness (e.g. occurring out of season or large numbers of previously healthy patients presenting within a short period of time).

When obtaining information from patients who present with one or more of these syndromes, background information should include: Recent travel history (both internal and external to the US).

Continued vigilance and rapid communication with the local Public Health Department is essential in responding to an event that may pose an imminent threat to the public's health, which may require isolation and immediate investigation of contacts.

The request to report these conditions is consistent with DHEC's Official List of Reportable Conditions (SC Code of Laws Section 44-29-10, Regulation 61-20) Conditions Immediately Reportable by Phone (e.g. Outbreak or unusual cluster of cases).

This alert is in addition to DHEC's Official List of Reportable Conditions.

Reporting

Any suspected or probable case(s) should be reported immediately. Healthcare providers should report cases, as described above, to their state or local health departments, at the following numbers:

District/County Health Department phone numbers:

Statewide Urgently Reportable Conditions and Consultation number (24hr/7day): 1-888-847-0902

Hospital Security

In collaboration with the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), it has been requested that healthcare facilities evaluate their facility security procedures. A visible security presence should be considered in consultation with your local law enforcement agency.

Additional Sources of Information

For more information contact your state or local health department, or the CDC Emergency Operations Center 770-488-7400.

Please refer to the following websites for additional information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

www.scdhec.net

World Health Organization

www.who.int/en/